

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.



FORTY-NINTH
Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

BY
C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., D.P.H. (L'pool).

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the Corporation Hospitals, Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, Member of the British Medical Association. Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Formerly Assistant Medical Officer of Health County Borough of Burnley, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Tuberculosis Officer County Borough of St. Helens, Deputy Medical Officer County Borough of Wigan.

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE
Sanitary and Building Inspector,
FRED WHALLEY, Cert. R.S.I.

1921.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR W. J. C. PITTARD, *Chairman*.

ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Vice-Chairman*.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN E. J. FARR COUNCILLOR J. ROUSELL

COUNCILLOR G. J. M. CARD „ H. A. R. E. UNWIN

„ S. C. CLOTHIER

HOUSING COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Chairman*.

ALDERMAN F. CRIDLAND, *Vice-Chairman*.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN E. J. FARR COUNCILLOR H. E. HIGDON

ALDERMAN P. W. PETTER „ A. R. GOULD

COUNCILLOR F. W. DENMAN

Town Clerk : H. C. C. BATTEN, D.S.O.

Borough Surveyor and Waterworks Manager . A. J. PRICE, A.M.I.C.E.

Deputy Borough Surveyor . C. G. TYLER.

Veterinary Surgeon : T. J. SYMES, M.R.C.V.S.

SANITARY STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health	..	..	C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.Ed., D.P.H. L'pool,
Sanitary and Building Inspector	..	..	FRED WHALLEY, C.R.S.I.
Matron Isolation Hospital	..	..	NURSE M. ARNOLD.
Health Visitor and Tuberculosis Nurse..	..	..	NURSE A. McDONALD.
Health Visitor (Infant Welfare)	..	..	NURSE L. REEVES.
Clerk to M.O.H.	..	..	Miss F. G. LINNETT.
Disinfector	..	..	E. O'HAGAN.
Midwives	..	..	NURSE M. ALLEN.
			NURSE I. ALLEN,

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE, *Chairman*.

COUNCILLOR G. H. GOULD, *Vice-Chairman*.

THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN E. J. FARR and J. MATTHEWS.

COUNCILLOR F. BEEL	MRS. F. M. EWENS
„ F. CLOTHIER	MRS. A. A. LITTLE
„ W. J. C. PITTARD	MISS F. PITTARD
„ A. H. J. STROUD	REV. R. NEWELL
MR. HENRY STIBY	MR. F. R. RIVERS
MR. HENRY TAVENER	

ATTENDANCE AND STAFF COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR A. H. J. STROUD, *Chairman*.

MISS F. PITTARD, *Vice-Chairman*.

ALDERMAN W. R. E. MITCHELMORE	MR. H. STIBY
MRS. LITTLE	REV. R. NEWELL
MRS. EWENS	MR. F. R. RIVERS
COUNCILLOR W. J. C. PITTARD	

Clerk to Education Committee : H. C. C. BATTEN, D.S.O.

School Attendance Officer : W. P. TOLMAN.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT STAFF.

School Medical Officer : C. W. GEE, L.R.C.P. and S.ED. D.P.H. L'pool.

Dentist : F. E. SPRAWSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond).
L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng).

School Nurse : NURSE A. McDONALD.

Clerk to Medical Officer : Miss F. LINNETT.

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the following report, which deals with the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending December 31st, 1921, and reviews the work carried out under the directions of your Medical Officer.

There are many cases of overcrowding in the Borough, generally due to the working class houses being occupied by two or more families. As long as the housing shortage continues, there will be this undesirable overcrowding.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The activities of the department have been concentrated on this branch of Public Health Work and it is encouraging to find that there are signs that the labour and time expended are not in vain.

I have pleasure in thanking all Members of the Staff for their loyal and able support, and also the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for their ready support and assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. GEE.

MARCH, 1922.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1921.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features and General Character.

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 852 acres, situated at the extreme south of the County of Somerset, on the borders of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural district.

The town is located upon the Upper and Middle Liassic Formations. The subsoil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone, with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

The greatest elevations within the Borough are : On the north, near Pickett Witch, 337 feet ; on the west, Summerlands, 233·6 feet ; and on the south, Hendford Hill, 269 feet. The lowest point is on the east, beyond the Sewage Works, 96·7 feet.

Meteorology.

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog and mist except in the lower parts of the town along the banks of the river.

RAINFALL.

Sewage Works : Total Rainfall 17·17 inches. Rainy Days 170.

Gas Works : Total Rainfall 16·03 inches. Rainy Days 118.

Average Rainfall for the past 10 years, 30·01 inches.

TEMPERATURES. 1921. Highest Maximum Temperature, 92° on July 12th.

Lowest Minimum Temperature, 23° on the 8th November.

Population.

The population at the June 1921 Census was 14,987. Owing to the Census being taken during holiday time, this figure has been adjusted to 15,050 by the Registrar-General.

Occupations.

The staple industry of Yeovil is the manufacture of leather gloves, including all processes from the preparation of the raw hides to the production of the finished article. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of persons of both sexes.

At the present moment there are 47 factories and workshops (inclusive of dressing yards). The 1921 returns showed that the total number of outworkers was 1,734 of whom 951 resided in the Borough, the remainder, 783 in the surrounding districts.

In addition to the gloving industry, there is a large engineering firm for the manufacture of oil engines, etc., which gives employment to about 500 hands.

There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy produce.

The motor industry, body making and repairs, is gradually increasing, there being eight workshops engaged in this work.

There are now six printing works in the town.

Poor Law Relief.

The amount of out-door relief distributed to poor persons in the Parish of Yeovil was £3,160 18s. 9d. during 1921, and the amount distributed to the unemployed was £821 4s. 7d.

Hospital and Medical Relief.

During the past year the Yeovil and District Hospital provided treatment for 218 in-patients, 391 out-patients, 59 dental attendances and 1,232 minor casualties.

The accommodation of the Hospital falls far short of the needs of the Town and District. A new Hospital is now in course of erection.

A Massage Department was opened in 1920 and 2,569 treatments have been given during the year.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value of the Borough is £69,954, the sum represented by a penny rate is £268.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The Water supply is derived from two main sources, namely, Stockwood and Spring Pond, with two auxiliary supplies to the latter from Evershot Tunnel and Haydon Wood. All four sources are situated to the south-east, on the green-sands of Dorsetshire. Stockwood is 6½, and the other sources about 8 miles from Yeovil. The water is conveyed to the town by gravitation through two separate pipe lines, that from Spring Pond having two service reservoirs with a combined capacity of 1,267,798 gallons. The water is of medium hardness and of good quality for drinking purposes. The average consumption is 30 gallons per head per day.

This water supply is not sufficient during dry periods for the needs of the inhabitants of Yeovil and the area of supply, which includes Yeovil Without and other parishes.

A new service reservoir is being constructed on the top of Hendford Hill, with a capacity of 750,000 gallons, which will be supplied from the spring at Stockwood. This will help to alleviate the great difficulty of dry weather shortage.

The Council have secured power to provide a further water supply, proposed to be obtained by sinking a well into the green-sand in the parish of Cattistock, in the County of Dorset. The daily additional supply from this source is estimated at 500,000 gallons.

Rivers and Streams.

The River Yeo for a small part of its course lies within the area of the Borough of Yeovil. A tributary of this river, before passing

through the town receives the effluent from the Preston Sewage Works.

The effluent from the Yeovil Sewage Works empties into the Yeo outside the town.

All sources of pollution of this river have been removed as far as possible.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage of the town, with the exception of that known as the West Hendford district, including Rustywell, is satisfactory in all respects.

West Hendford district is unsatisfactory by reason of the insufficient capacity of the main sewer draining that area. With regard to the Rustywell district, which contains 10 houses, the drainage of these is connected to cesspools, which overflow into a ditch in the near vicinity of the houses, giving rise to a nuisance.

The Sewage Disposal Works are ample for the needs of the town, and are giving satisfactory results.

The method in force is sedimentation, which takes place in six closed tanks, the effluent being passed on to a series of contact beds and one percolating bed.

The effluent from the contact beds is discharged into an equalising pool, and thence into the river; that from the percolating bed is discharged into a separator in which collodal matter is deposited and thence to the river.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, and with very few exceptions is connected to the town sewers.

There are 10 houses which are drained to cesspools or provided with earth closets. These houses are in a position too low to be connected with the main sewers, or beyond the distance specified under the Public Health Acts, viz., 100 feet.

Scavenging.

STORAGE OF REFUSE.—Very few houses in the Borough are provided with sanitary dustbins. The receptacles which are most commonly in use are wooden boxes, dilapidated baths, buckets and even baskets. The majority of these receptacles leak, with the result that the contents escape and litter the yards and streets. On windy days the dust, pending removal is blown about and is liable to give rise to various diseases such as sore throat, conjunctivitis, etc. These unsuitable receptacles are very difficult to empty completely owing to the contents becoming wet and clinging to the sides and bottom. Decomposition takes place in the residue, giving rise to offensive gases.

The Council have bye-laws in course of preparation dealing with receptacles for house refuse.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.—All refuse in the town is collected once weekly by the Council employees and conveyed in open carts to the refuse destructor and burnt.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.—The refuse destructor is of the Stirling Type, and consists of two cells hand fed and clinkered.

Additional measures are required to deal with the present amount of refuse of a more economic character than running two shifts.

Sanitary Inspections of District.

A statement of inspections made with their results is included in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two common lodging houses in Yeovil, containing beds for the accommodation of 35 persons. They are constantly inspected, and are kept in a satisfactory condition from the health point of view.

Houses Let-In-Lodgings.

None registered.

Offensive Trades.

There are 17 dressing yards, two marine stores and one tallow melting factory in the Borough.

Bye-laws are in the course of preparation which will include control of offensive trades.

Underground Rooms.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in Yeovil. No regulations have been made in connection with the use of underground rooms as sleeping places.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools in Yeovil is on the whole satisfactory. The schools are supplied with water from the public water supply.

School Hygiene.

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE SCHOOLS.

The following is the routine adopted for the exclusion of scholars suffering from infectious diseases and those who are contacts.

The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as School Medical Officer, issues School Exclusion Notices to the parents and head teachers of the school which the case attends. All contacts are also excluded. Children from infected households are not allowed to return to school until Re-admission Notices are sent to the parents and head teachers. Any suspicious case brought to the attention of the teachers and school nurse, is excluded until the School Medical Officer is satisfied as to the diagnosis.

DIPHTHERIA.—No child is notified as fit to return to school until Bacteriological evidence of a satisfactory character is obtained. Contacts are swabbed and excluded when necessary.

A system of Sunday School exclusion is in force. A list of the names and addresses of all children suffering from infectious diseases, including contagious diseases, such as ringworm, scabies and also of possibly infected contacts, is drawn up each Saturday and a copy sent to the Superintendent of all Sunday Schools in the Borough.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 10 Cow-keepers, three of whom are provided with cowsheds, the remaining seven allow their cows to be in the open during the winter. There are 27 Retailers of milk in the town, 12 of whom have milkshops.

The cowsheds are periodically inspected and are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition. During recent years they have been properly paved and drained.

The premises of the persons registered for the sale of milk and the Milkshops are constantly inspected.

The results of analysis made for the purpose of the Food and Drugs Acts indicate that the milk retailed in the Borough is of good standard and clean.

In accordance with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk shops Orders 49 persons are registered as follows :—

Cow-keepers and Purveyors	...	...	10
Purveyors of Milk	...	...	27
Milkshop Keepers	...	...	12

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

Provision was made for the supply of milk to necessitous cases. Investigations are made by lady members of the Committee and each case is dealt with on its merits by the Infant Welfare Committee.

Other Foods.

All places where the manufacture of food for public consumption is carried on are regularly inspected, and have been found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses.

There are 15 bakehouses in the Borough. The majority of these are old and unsatisfactory from a structural point of view. Owing to the bad structural condition and smallness of some of these bakehouses, it is difficult for them to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-houses.

There are eight private slaughter-houses, all of which are licensed. These are kept under constant supervision and are fairly satisfactory, although structurally they do not conform to modern requirements. There is no Public Abattoir in Yeovil.

The following table gives the number of slaughter-houses in use at various dates:—

	1914.	January 1921.	December 1921.
Registered	1	—	—
Licensed	8	8	8
	—	—	—
Total	9	8	8

Meat Inspection.

During the year inspections of the slaughter-houses and butchers' shops have been carefully carried out. A leg of mutton on one of the market stalls was certified unfit for human consumption, and destroyed.

The Case for a Public Abattoir.

A close inspection of the slaughter-houses is kept up and the meat inspected regularly. Whilst the cattle killed in the town's slaughter-houses has proved to be of a satisfactory character—yet under existing conditions it is possible for animals of doubtful character to be killed outside the town and the meat distributed in the town and district for human consumption. This could not be so readily done under the orders of the Ministry of Food, particularly as dealing in cattle, except through authorised markets was prohibitive, and where contraventions were detected, heavy penalties were inflicted. These orders, were in my opinion, a capital safe.

guard over the nation's food supply, and until such times as Public Abattoirs could have been erected throughout the country, should have been kept on to the extent of preventing any killing or disposal of meat without authority.

Unsound Food.

The following were condemned :—

17 Boxes of Bloaters.
28lbs. of Shrimps.
38lbs. of Sausages.
32lbs. Crabs.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

These acts are administered by the County Council. The taking of samples is conducted by the police, under the supervision of the Chief Constable, who has kindly supplied through Superintendent Williams, of Yeovil, the number, nature, and results of samples taken in the Borough during the last year.

Sixty-six samples were taken as follows :—

Milk	...	...	...	32
Tapioca	...	...	...	1
Flour	...	...	...	2
Baking Powder	...	...	...	1
Sausages	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	...	...	2
Whisky	...	...	...	4
Gin	...	...	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	4
Beer	...	...	...	2
Peaches	...	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	1
Arrowroot	...	...	...	1
Brawn	...	...	...	2
Brandy	...	...	...	2
Cornflour	...	...	...	1
Potted Meat	...	...	...	1
Pepper	...	...	...	1
Zinc Ointment	...	...	...	1
Cream of Tartar	...	...	...	1
Tea	...	...	...	1
Honey	...	...	...	1
Sago	...	...	...	1

All were found genuine,

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been regularly visited during the year under review. I give below the annual return required by the Home Office.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of	
		Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	35	4	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	151	2	—
Workplaces.. ..	14	—	—
Total	200	6	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :			
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—
„ Ventilation	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation, insufficient ..	3	3	—
„ „ defective ..	1	1	—
„ „ not separate for sexes }	2	2	—
Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :			
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	—	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97-100)	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—
Total	6	6	—

3. HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LIST. Section 107.		Nature of Work—GLOVING.	Number.
Lists received from Employers once in the year		...	32
Outworkers		...	1734
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists		...	32

Prosecutions : Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists	Nil
„ Failing to send lists	Nil

Outwork in unwholesome Premises, Section 108 :

Instances	Nil
Notices served	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

Outwork in infected Premises, Section 109, 110 :

Instances	10
Orders made (s. 110) (Gloving removed & disinfected)	10
Prosecutions	Nil

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register (s. 131) at end of the year.

	Number.
Bakehouses	13
Gloving	30
Fabric Gloves	1
Tailoring	15
Dressmaking	20
Millinery	8
Marine Stores	2
Laundry	1
General	53
Blacksmith	1
Sweet Making	1
Lace Repairing	1
Total Number of Workshops on Register	146

5. OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Work- shops Acts (s. 133, 1901)	Nil
Action taken in matters referred to H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts,	

but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts
(s. 5, 1901) :

Notified by H.M. Inspector	...	...	5
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	5
Other	1

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—

In use at the end of the year	Nil
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Sanitary Conditions of Theatres, Cinema Houses, etc.

These have been inspected.

There are three in the town, one giving theatrical or variety performances, one giving theatrical, variety or cinema shows, and one giving cinema shows only.

The ventilation has been good in every case and the condition of the accommodation for the artists is entirely satisfactory.

Means of escape in the case of fire are provided for in each building.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The means adopted in the Borough to control the spread of infectious diseases do not differ in any material details from those given in the annual report for 1920.

Scarlet Fever.

Three cases were notified during the year 1921, as compared with two cases in 1920.

All were removed to the Fever Hospital in Lyde Lane. There was no death. No return cases occurred during 1921.

Diphtheria.

Forty-six cases were notified during the year, the first three cases occurred in the Pen Mill district, all attending the same school. On visiting the school, 8 children were found who had

complained of sore throat during the previous fortnight, and had been kept home for several days on that account, the Diphtheria Bacilli were found in the throat of 6 of these children. During the following two or three weeks 4 children were found in the schools with well developed membrane in the throat, and on swabbing the throat Diphtheria Bacilli were found, the children were excluded from school. Two of the teachers also contracted the disease. Nearly all the cases were children attending the school, all cases were of a mild character, no death took place. There is little doubt that the spread of the disease was due to these 6 cases not being recognised as diphtheria until the visit to the school. During the same period several cases were discovered at the school clinic, if these cases had not been found and isolated, it is more than likely that there would have been many more cases of the disease.

Provision of Diphtheria Antitoxin.

Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners requiring the same on application to the Health Office.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Three cases of this disease were notified. All the cases died.

Measles.

Nine cases of measles were notified and no deaths took place.

German Measles.

This disease is important in complicating the diagnosis of measles and scarlet fever. 21 notifications of this disease were received.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases are known to have occurred.

Whooping Cough, 35 ; Chicken Pox, 14.

Chicken Pox.

This disease was not so prevalent as during the previous year.

Influenza.

The number of deaths was nil as compared with six in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The Somerset County Council deal with all cases of Tuberculosis notified in Yeovil.

The dispensary is situated in Southville and is open all day on Tuesdays for the examination and treatment of patients.

Prevalence.

ALL FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917
Notifications ...	41	41	45	37	64
Number of Deaths ...	19	20	12	13	14
Death-rate per 1,000	1.2	1.4	.8	.9	1.0

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (Phthisis).

	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917
Notifications ..	33	31	38	37	54
Number of Deaths ...	11	13	9	11	13
Death-rate per 1,000	.7	.9	.6	.7	.8

During the year 1921, 41 notifications were received, 33 related to pulmonary and 8 to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Control.

(A) On receipt of the primary notification the patient is visited and enquiries are made as to predisposing causes, contacts and sanitary conditions of premises.

(B) Visits are paid as often as necessary for the purpose of controlling infection, the taking of temperature records, the correct use of shelters, &c, 334 primary and secondary visits were made during the year.

(c) Contacts are referred to the County Tuberculosis Dispensary for examination.

(D) The Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as School Medical Officer, refers all children which he has found to be either suffering from or threatened with tuberculosis to the dispensary.

(E) The Yeovil School Nurse is engaged by the County Council to give a portion of her time to visiting and to assisting at the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

(F) Sanitary defects, uncleanliness, overcrowding, etc., are referred to the Sanitary Inspector for further action with a view to abatement. Disinfection of infected rooms, shelters, etc., is carried out when necessary. Last year 105 disinfections were made.

The Yeovil and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued during the last year to provide very valuable assistance in dealing with special and necessitous patients.

Venereal Disease.

A treatment centre at the Yeovil and District Hospital is provided by the Somerset County Council. Hours of attendance—Men, Fridays, 3 p.m. Women, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.

Small-pox.

Vaccination as a measure of precaution against small-pox is more and more neglected in Yeovil, and the number of exemption certificates increases every year.

The Medical Officer of Health has not been called upon to perform any vaccination under the Public Health (Small-pox Regulations, 1917).

Rabies.

There has been no case of this disease and Yeovil was exempt from the Muzzling Order.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Midwives' Act is administered by the Somersetshire County Council. The Lady Inspector of Midwives resides at Taunton.

There are at present five midwives resident in the town, two of whom are employed by the Yeovil Town Council.

During the year 1919 the Council adopted and put into operation an amended scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare work in Yeovil.

A supply of Milk Foods and Drugs to necessitous mothers was provided.

The Council have arranged for the provision of Home Helps.

NURSING OF MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.—Additional nurses can be engaged temporarily during epidemics of these diseases.

The provision of Institutional Beds for mothers and children is under consideration.

MOTHERS.—The Health Visitors made 1,063 visits to expectant mothers. The Midwives attended 190 confinements during the year.

INFANTS.—248 primary and 3,868 subsequent visits were paid to infants and 163 visits to infants suffering from ophthalmia neonatorum.

4,317 Post Natal visits were made.

1,357 visits were paid to children from 1 to 5 years of age.

Ante-Natal and Infant Clinic.

This Clinic is held at the Special Subjects Centre, Eastland Road, on Tuesday afternoons, at 3 o'clock.

Thirty-three expectant mothers attended the clinic for advice. 155 infants attended for the first time. The mothers made 33 and the children 1,442 attendances at the clinic.

Forty-six children below school age were treated at the Treatment Clinic in South Street. Attendances made 211.

All still-births and infant deaths are investigated. There were 13 still-births during 1921.

At the present moment there is no institution but the Union Infirmary for dealing with confinements of unmarried mothers, and children are permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their parents. Fortunately in the past temporary homes have been found through the agency of the N.S.P.C.C.

Infectious Diseases affecting Parturient Women, Infants and Young Children.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—One case of Puerperal Fever was notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—During the year under review seven cases were notified. Since 1914, 49 cases of ophthalmia have been notified, an average of seven cases a year. On enquiry into the back history of these cases, one child lost the sight of one eye, this was a case which occurred in the Hospital. Of the cases six were treated in the Hospital, the remainder were treated at home or at the Infant Welfare treatment clinic by the Council nurses under the direction of the patients own medical attendant or the Medical Officer of Health.

MEASLES.—This disease was rather prevalent during the early part of the year and there were 4 children below school age attacked.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.—This disease which used to claim at one time about 80 per cent. of deaths of children occurring under two years is now almost unknown, owing to the propaganda work of the health visitor and by the education of the mothers by pamphlets and by the value of the Infant Welfare Clinic.

Sanitary Administration.

The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, an Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Building Inspector, and one Disinfecter. Two Health Visitors and two Midwives are employed by the Council, the School Nurse gives a portion of her time to health

visiting and to the County Tuberculosis work in Yeovil. The connection thus established between the Public Health Department of the Borough and the County Tuberculosis scheme is most desirable and has in the past yielded most satisfactory results.

When the Isolation Hospital contains no patients, the matron assists in health visiting and baby work.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Lyde Lane Isolation Hospital is employed for the isolation of scarlet fever patients.

It consists of a permanent building containing two wards, separated by a small room, and in addition the quarters for the matron, consisting of a bedroom, sitting-room, store-room and kitchen.

There is also a temporary wooden building divided into three communicating wards which is used, when necessary, as an overflow for convalescent scarlet fever cases. The laundry, ambulance house and mortuary are good brick buildings. The matron resides at the hospital and keeps it in readiness for immediate use.

There is no accommodation in the administrative block for additional nurses which greatly increases the difficulty of administration when the disease is present in epidemic form in the town.

The following Table gives the number of cases treated at the hospital.

Disease.	Sex	Remaining in at end of 1920	Admitted during 1921	Recovered.	Died.	Remaining in at end of 1921
Scarlet Fever	M	..	1	1	..	..
	F	..	2	..	..	2
Total ..	..	..	3	1	..	2

The Small-Pox Hospital at Whistle Bridge has accommodation for six patients. No cases have been admitted since the epidemic of 1909.

Local and Adoptive Acts.

The Adoptive Acts in force in the Borough are :

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Parts of The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, as follows : Part II., Part III. (except Sections 39 to 42), Part IV. (except Section 67), Part V., Part VI., Part VII., Sections 79 and 86, Part VIII., Part IX., Part X., Section 95.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889—extension to Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The administration of the above Acts is referred to under Infant Mortality, Prevention of Infectious Diseases, etc.

Bacteriological Work.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli	159	584	743
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli	2	2	4
Hairs for Ringworm Spores	—	2	2
Milk for Diphtheria Bacilli	—	1	1
Milk for Tubercle Bacilli	—	4	4
Blood Smears for Anthrax Bacilli	6	1	7
Hairs for Sheep Scabies	2	—	2
Hairs for Horse Mange	—	1	1

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.
Mid-year Population ...	15,050	14,680	14,500	14,400
Number of Births ...	303	327	243	243
Birth-rate per 1,000 ...	20·1	22·2	16·7	16·8
Number of Deaths ...	164	161	186	216
Death-rate per 1,000 ...	10·8	10·9	12·8	15·0
Infantile Mortality ...	69·3	45·8	86·5	69·9
Phthisis Death-rate ...	·7	·8	·7	·7
Cancer Death-rate ...	1·5	·8	1·03	1·2

NOTIFICATIONS :—	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917
Measles and German Measles	30	407	29	469	365
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	9	3	3	4
Tuberculosis ...	41	41	45	37	64
Other Infectious Diseases	70	70	68	27	11

Population.

The population at the census in year 1921 was 14,987. The Registrar-General's estimate was 15,050 for calculation of the birth-rate and death-rate.

Births.

The total number of births registered was 303. This number has been corrected for transfers by the Registrar-General. The births allocated to the Borough were 303, equivalent to a birth-rate of 20·1 per 1,000 of a population of 15,050. (Legitimate, males 148, females 144. Illegitimate, males 5, females 6).

Notification of Births.

The number of births notified was 315, of which 13 were still-births.

Deaths.

The deaths registered numbered 167. The Registrar-General transferred 13 of these deaths being persons not belonging to the Borough, to their usual places of residence, and 10 deaths of Yeovil residents from other districts. The net total number of deaths for the Borough was 164, equivalent to a death-rate of 10·8 per 1,000 of the Registrar-General's estimated death-rate population of 15,050.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1921 was 12·1.

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the district									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-residents in institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
All causes	Certified	.. 164	21	..	1	8	3	20	36	75	..
	Uncertified	.. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
Meningococcal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	11	..	..	..	..	10	1	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	8	1	..	..	4	2	1	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	..	24	..	..	..	..	1	10	13	3	..
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diabetes	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	..	..
Heart Disease	..	20	..	..	..	..	2	4	14	1	..
Arterio-sclerosis	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..
Bronchitis	..	11	2	..	..	1	..	2	6	2	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	8	..	..	..	..	1	5	2	..	..
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	3	3	2	..
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 yrs.)	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appenditis and Typhlitis	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	..
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	..	13	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Deaths from Violence	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	..	29	1	..	1	2	2	3	20	3	..
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	..	.. 164	21	..	1	8	3	20	36	75	16

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.			Vision Un- impaired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home	In Hospital				
7	6	1	7	—	—	—	

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES
UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	9	2	1	..	13	..	5	..	4	21
	Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Syphilis ..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ..		..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
Whooping Cough		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Enteritis ..		..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3
Premature Birth		..	8	2	1	..	1	2	..	..	14
		9	2	2	..	..	2	3	..	3	21

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 21, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 69.3 per 1,000 births. Legitimate 66.0, Illegitimate 3.3. The rate for the whole of England and Wales in the year 1921 was 83.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions of the District.

At the end of 1921 there were 3510 houses in the Borough of Yeovil, of which 2,677 approximately were occupied by the working classes.

Fifty-seven houses have been erected during the year, 50 of which were built under a Scheme of Housing on the Kingston Estate.

The extent of the shortage of houses can be understood by there being no empty houses in the Borough, and the fact that there are about 3,760 separate occupiers.

In order to meet this shortage, the Council is now carrying out a scheme for the erection of 99. It is estimated that the number of houses required during the next three years average from 250 to 300.

Overcrowding.

There are many cases of overcrowding in the Borough, generally due to the working class houses being occupied by two or more families. Owing to the absolute impossibility of finding housing accommodation, no steps have been taken.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard of housing in the town is fairly good, the chief defects being dampness and general dilapidation. With regard to unfit houses, the chief causes which go to render these houses unfit, are dampness, walls structurally defective, and lack of through ventilation.

Owing to the scarcity of houses no action has been taken under the Public Health Acts or Housing Acts with regard to these unfit houses.

Unhealthy Areas.

There are no unhealthy areas in the Borough and no representation has been made.

Bye-laws relating to Houses to Sub-let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

The Corporation have no bye-laws dealing with the above mentioned, but bye-laws are in course of preparation embodying these places.

General and Miscellaneous.

Every effort is made to abate nuisances arising from overcrowding, but this is extremely difficult to cope with under the present shortage of houses. Many houses which, on inspection, have been found to be in an insanitary state, have been put in order.

Housing Inspection.

During the year 187 houses have been inspected and defects therein recorded.

The inspection was carried out in the South Ward and included Park Street, Park Row, Addlewell Lane, and portions of South Street, Brunswick Street, and Chants Path.

The inspection shewed that about 50 % of the houses had defects of one character or another, that 25 % were houses which should be classed—as falling below a reasonable standard.

The houses inspected were naturally the older houses in the ward, and apart from the structional condition of some of the houses—the principal defect is—the absence of separate closet and yard accommodation.

Only 48 of the houses have separate closets, the remainder (139 houses) having closets in common—one closet to two houses—and in one instance—where a block of 10 houses are provided with only 4 closets.

This common use of closets and yards, particularly the former, is very unsatisfactory. On December 31st the repairs had been carried out in the whole of the houses except four.

Appendices.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

	(a) Total	...	...	57
	(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	50
1.	<i>Unfit Dwelling-houses.</i>			
	Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)			
		...	...	187
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910			
		...	...	187
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			
		...	...	Nil
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects resonably fit for human habitation			
		...	...	Nil

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	87
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—			
(a) by owners	...	..	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—			
(a) by owners	...	..	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders			Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...		Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...		Nil

CHAS. W. GEE,

Medical Officer of Health,

REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary and Building Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a brief report of the work carried out during the past year.

NUISANCES.

Careful attention has been paid throughout the year to all complaints, and the necessary steps taken to abate the nuisances as expeditiously as possible. Systematic inspection of the town has been carried out, nuisances recorded, and the necessary notices served.

On the whole the work of complying with such notices has been executed within the period stated, which, considering the still very high price of materials and labour is very satisfactory.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

Particulars of this are given on page 29.

MEAT.

Continuous inspections have been made of the Slaughter-houses and Butcher Shops as well as the Market Stalls.

The former have been kept in a satisfactory condition, the cattle, etc., killed therein, which I have inspected, have been of good quality throughout the year.

The butchers' shops together, with the preparatory places for the making of sausages, etc., have been closely supervised and found satisfactory.

MILK.

The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops have received continuous and careful attention—and the necessity for strict cleanliness pressed upon all concerned. The result has been satisfactory. I am of the opinion from the inspections made during the year of the premises and utensils, that the cowkeepers and retailers have endeavoured to render the milk supply of the town clean and wholesome.

BAKEHOUSES.

Regular inspections have been carried out in regard to the above—and on the whole have been kept clean and satisfactory.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

Numerous visits have been made and the condition of the sanitary arrangements of the Factories and Workshops kept up to a suitable point. Three new closets—improvements to two others—together with one urinal. The lime washing of two workshops and the provision of fire escape to one factory, have been carried out during the year.

Reports upon the following have been presented to the Committee during the year :—

Refuse Tip, King Street.

Condition of ditch, Preston Grove.

Smoke Nuisances, various.

Royal Sanitary Institute Conference.
 Leather dust nuisance from Factories.
 Deposits of dressing yard refuse and removal.
 Pig keeping on Allotments.
 Stream, Beer Street.
 Housing Inspections.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The total number of dwelling houses completed during the year has been 57, of which 50 were in connection with the Corporation Kingston Housing Scheme, the remaining 7 having been built by private enterprise.

Fifty other new buildings and additions to factories and houses, etc., have been completed.

Close attention has been paid to the work in progress in its relation to the Building Bye-Laws.

Summary of Inspections.

The number of inspections made, together with the result of such inspections and re-inspections, are given in the following tables :—

No. of HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED	..	534
No of RE-INSPECTIONS in connection with the abatement of nuisances, &c.	.. .. .	1101
		<hr/> 1635 <hr/>

PARTICULARS OF INSPECTIONS—

Nuisances and the Abatement of Nuisances	..	440
Infectious Diseases	.. .. .	135
Slaughterhouses	.. .. .	106
Bakehouses	.. .. .	58
Workshops	.. .. .	101
Factories	.. .. .	69
Offensive Trades	.. .. .	29
Fish Shops	.. .. .	26
Butchers' Shops	.. .. .	115
Common Lodging Houses	.. .. .	63
Milkshops	.. .. .	38

Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	12
Miscellaneous	..	..	.	..	122
Housing Regulations	..	..	..	..	188
Sewers and Drains	..	..	..	..	153

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND—

houses

Defective drains in connection with	..	..	..	29
Defective closet accommodation	..	.	..	31
Defective yard paving	..	..	..	16
Defective guttering	..	..	..	34
Defective ventilation	..	..	..	51
Defective lighting	..	..	..	29
Defective floors	..	..	..	29
Defective windows and doors	..	..	..	36
Defective roofs	..	..	..	10
Defective staircases	..	..	..	7
Dampness	..	..	..	39
Unwholesome state of walls and ceilings	..	..	..	53
Overcrowding	..	..	..	3
Keeping fowls so as to be a nuisance	..	..	..	6
Dirty Houses	..	..	..	5
Rubbish lying about	..	..	..	12
Absence of sinks under taps	..	..	..	2
Absence of storage for food	..	..	..	16
Absence of manure pit to stable	..	..	..	3

RESULTS OF INSPECTIONS—

110 notices have been served in respect of 113 houses and premises.

HOUSES & PREMISES—

Disinfected	..	..	..	..	105
Cleansed	..	..	..	..	5
Repaired, limewashed, etc.	..	..	..	..	83
Yards repaired	..	..	..	..	5
Yards repaved	..	..	..	..	5
Amended lighting to rooms	..	..	..	..	6
Amended ventilation to rooms	..	..	..	..	8
Repairs to windows	..	..	..	..	35
Damp houses amended	..	..	..	..	9
Amended for storage of food	..	..	..	..	5

HOUSE DRAINAGE—

New systems of drainage provided in existing houses	..	..	..	5
Intercepting chambers fixed	..	..	..	10

Ventilating shafts fixed	..	..	..	6
Defective traps condemned and removed	..	..	..	33
New stoneware gullies fixed	..	..	..	30
New sink troughs fixed	..	..	..	4
Drainage systems repaired	..	..	..	18

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

W.C.'s repaired, lighted and ventilated	..	..	..	16
Closets supplied with flushing cisterns	..	..	..	8
Closets supplied with pedestal pans and seats	..	..	..	5
New W.C.'s built complete	..	..	..	5

MISCELLANEOUS—

Removal of filth	..	..	..	8
Insanitary keeping of animals	..	..	..	5
Choked drains cleared and repaired	..	..	..	39
Smoke tests made in connection with existing drains	..	..	..	49

NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of houses certified as fit for habitation on completion	...	...	...	57
Trade and other buildings	..	..	..	24

INSPECTIONS, Etc.—

The number of inspections of new buildings during the course of erection	...	...	...	585
The number of tests applied in connection with New Buildings (drains) and New Public Sewers...	...	...	...	114

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. WHALLEY.

SCHOOL .
HYGIENE.

BOROUGH OF YEOVIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Education Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Fourteenth Annual Report which deals with the work of Medical Inspection, following up and treatment of children attending the Elementary Schools in the Borough.

During 1921 there was systematic medical inspection of children coming within the age groups specified by the Board of Education.

The School Care Committee still continues to provide from voluntary contributions much appreciated assistance to necessitous children who do not come within the scope of relief from the Guardians.

I have pleasure in acknowledging the cordial co-operation of the staff of the Department, the Attendance Officer, and the Head Teachers.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. GEE,

School Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1921.

INTRODUCTION.

At the beginning of 1921 there were in the borough under the control of the Education Committee 6 schools with 9 departments.

There was accommodation for 2376 children, 1998 being on the roll, with an average attendance of 1792.

At the end of the year the number on the roll was 2062 and the average attendance 1851.

The number of children under five years of age attending school at the end of the year was 59.

HYGIENIC CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

Reference to this subject was made in the report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1919 and no material alteration has taken place.

The classification of Children examined is set out on Table 1.

The name of every child suffering from a defect of sufficient importance to be brought to the notice of the parents, is entered on a special card and filed for following up and re-examination. If, at

the time of medical inspection, the case appears suitable for immediate attention, steps are taken to provide the necessary treatment. Every case is followed up by the nurses of the Medical Officer's Staff, who encourage the parents to obtain medical advice or arrange for attendance at the Clinic. After treatment, a re-examination is made by the School Medical Officer on the occasion of the next visit to the school attended by the child.

Table 2 shows the number of serious defects found in systematic and special examinations, and brought to the notice of the parents.

CLEANSING OF SCHOOLS.

All the schools are provided with part-time cleaners with the exception of the Central Schools and Special Subjects centre, for which a whole-time cleaner is provided. The part-time cleaners are also assisted by a man employed full time as a visiting cleaner and whose duties consist of looking after the latrines and play grounds. The floors and furniture of the schools are scrubbed during the Easter, Summer and Christmas vacations and the walls and windows cleansed.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE SCHOLARS.

General Facts, Scope of Inspection.

The bulk of the school inspections took place at the respective schools. The children attending the Reckleford Schools and the Central Junior School are examined at the Clinic attached to the Special Subjects Centre in Eastland Road.

A weighing machine and height standard are kept at each school.

NUMBER OF VISITS.

The following visits to the school departments and children's homes were made during 1921 :

A.	To Schools and Departments.		
1.	By Medical Officer :		
a.	For systematic inspections	... ..	29
b.	For special inspections and re-inspections...		35
c.	For enquiries as to infectious diseases, sanitary conditions, etc.		39
2.	By School Nurse :		
a.	For systematic inspections	... ..	29
b.	For special inspections and re-inspections	... ..	73
B.	To the Children's Homes	... ..	603

The home visits do not include those made in connection with measles, german measles and other notifiable infectious diseases.

PRINCIPLE OF SELECTION OF CHILDREN FOR INSPECTION.

The children are selected by means of the special medical inspection registers. Each child is examined as soon as possible after admission to school, for the second time at 8 years of age and for the third time at 12 years of age.

METHOD OF INSPECTION.

The School Nurse accompanies the School Medical Officer. Her work consists of recording the presence or absence of parents and the family history. She weighs and measures the child and tests the sight and gives the necessary assistance of undressing and dressing the girls and infants.

PRESENCE OF PARENTS AT ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

Parents or guardians were present at 296 or 50·2 % of the inspections. The presence of parents is very desirable. Physical defects can be pointed out and the mother's interest in the child's welfare can be stimulated so as to yield more practical results than can be obtained by sending written notices.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

There is evidence that owing to the high price of boots and clothes the children attending school are not so well clothed as they were before the war. Seventy-four cases of poor, and 4 of very poor clothing, 69 cases of defective boots, and 7 of very bad boots were found during the year.

CLEANLINESS OF THE HEAD.

Of the 311 boys inspected 2 or .6 % had nits and none had vermin in their hair.

Of the 278 girls, 23 or 8.2 % had nits and 3 or 1.0 % had vermin.

The following are the results of the systematic surprise examinations during the year 1921.

	Number Examined.	With Nits.		With Vermin.	
		No.	Per Cent.	No.	Per Cent.
INFANTS : Boys	944	43	4.5	9	.9
Girls	984	210	21.3	15	1.5
SENIORS : Boys	348	8	2.2	1	.2
Girls	671	105	15.6	4	.5
All Boys	1292	51	3.9	10	.7
All Girls	1655	315	19.0	19	1.1
All Children	2947	366	12.4	29	.9

CLEANLINESS OF THE BODY.

Fourteen children were found badly marked by flea bites.

It is a deplorable fact that there are so many children found in school with vermin and nits in the hair. There has been a small improvement in recent years, but this has only been obtained through systematic and surprise examinations and the repeated notices sent to parents in recurrent cases. No prosecutions were made by the Education Committee during 1921.

SCHOOL BATHS.

There are no school shower or other baths. The Corporation baths are available to selected boys and girls.

NUTRITION.

Of the 589 children examined, 97·6 per cent. were returned as of normal nutrition, 2·4 per cent. as below normal. The School Care Committee provides extra nourishment in the way of milk and drugs for selected cases of malnutrition and debility. There has been no evidence of children lacking food in the past year and it has not been necessary to put into operation the feeding scheme prepared by the Education Committee some years ago.

An Open Air School is badly required in Yeovil to deal with cases of pre-tubercular, anæmic and debilitated children. Substantial benefits in building up the health of children have been obtained in those places where these schools are in existence. The Education Committee have been cognisant of this fact for some years, but owing to the war they have been unable to deal with the question. An elaborate building is not essential, temporary wooden structures such as converted army huts have been found to meet the case in a satisfactory manner. In the meantime playground classes should be utilised as much as possible.

In connection with an Open Air School the question of dealing with dull and backward children should be considered. A large per cent. of dull and backward children shows signs of physical defect. Special classes in an open air school under suitable teachers, would not only improve the body but also the minds, as these two defects go so often together.

HEARING—EAR DISEASE.

Cases of chronic discharge from the ears were less than in the previous year. Of the 589 children examined, 3 had discharge from the ears.

Parents are beginning to realise that this disease leads to deafness and that serious complications may ensue, and in consequence seek early treatment at the School Clinic.

NOSE AND THROAT.

During the year 38 children were certified as requiring operation. Under an agreement with the Yeovil and District Hospital the Education Committee pays for all cases of children of necessitous families requiring operation for tonsils and adenoids. During the year 5 cases were operated on in this hospital. Cases operated on are followed up by the School Nurse and requested to attend the Clinic to see the School Medical Officer. An intimation is given to the teacher in order that the child's method of breathing may be kept under observation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year six children were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 from other forms of tuberculosis. Children suspected of phthisis are asked to visit the Clinic for further examination. Those cases which require treatment and supervision are referred to the Tuberculosis Officer for the county. There are at present 54 children in the Borough notified as suffering from tuberculosis (one below school age)—28 pulmonary and 26 non-pulmonary.

RE-INSPECTIONS AND FOLLOWING UP.

The Board of Education Table IV. gives the results of re-inspections to ascertain how far treatment has been secured.

SCHOOL CLINIC.

The Clinic is held daily at 6, South Street, Yeovil, Sundays and Bank Holidays excepted.

The following accommodation is available :—

1. Rooms for the Medical Officer and Nurse.
2. A room for the treatment of skin and ear diseases, etc.

3. A waiting room.

4. An annexe to the Medical Officer's room provides for eye examinations. Provision is also made in this room for examination on a couch and for weighing the children.

The examinations and treatment are carried out by the School Medical Officer and School Nurse. The work occupies on the average two hours every morning. There is a daily attendance of about 50 children.

CLASSIFICATION OF CASES ATTENDED AT THE SCHOOL CLINIC DURING 1921.

			Treatment carried over from previous year.	New cases.	Treatment completed.	Treatment not completed at the end of the year.	Total attend- ances.
Eye Defects	..	..	—	68	64	4	269
Ear Defects	..	..	7	67	65	2	1760
Ringworm	..	..	—	17	16	1	187
Scabies ..	..	..	3	25	23	2	336
Impetigo	..	..	4	201	200	1	2325
Verminous	..	..	—	32	—	—	58
Referred to Dentist	..	..	—	48	—	—	48
Tuberculosis—Referred to Dispensary	..	..	—	5	—	—	12
Other Skin Diseases	..	..	1	23	23	—	105
Minor Ailments	.	..	7	970	960	10	4070
Total	..	..	22	1456	1351	20	8901

DISEASES AND DEFECTS DEALT WITH.

Diseases of the eye, ear and skin are treated, defects of eye-sight are examined, spectacles being prescribed where necessary.

Special cases *re* children reported to the Medical Officer by the Committee, School Nurse, Teacher, Attendance Officer and parents are examined and advice given.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

The Education Committee have adopted the following scheme for Dental Inspection and Treatment.

Two half-days per month for extractions.

One half-day per month for inspection.

One half-day per month for fillings.

Treatment is carried out at the Dental Clinic in Eastland Road, which consists of a room for the Dental Officer, a waiting room and a rinsing room provided with sinks, hot and cold water, and all necessary apparatus.

Last year notices to attend for treatment were issued to 474 children and 246 attended. The number of visits made to the Clinic by these children was 355. 626 extractions, 562 temporary and 64 of permanent teeth, and 155 fillings were made.

The present amount of time afforded for dental work is not sufficient for the inspection, re-inspection and treatment of the 2000 children in the elementary schools. At least one-fifth of the dentist's time should be employed in inspection and at each session for treatment not more than 10 children should attend for filling and extractions. In order that all the ground may be covered it appears necessary for the dentist to be employed at least two half-days per week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria was prevalent towards the end of the year.

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE SCHOOLS.—An account of the scheme for preventing the spread of infectious diseases in the Schools and Sunday Schools was given in the Public Health Report for 1920.

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

SWIMMING.—468 children desirous of receiving instruction in swimming were examined by the School Medical Officer. Eighty-five children were found to be unfit.

CO-OPERATION OF SCHOOL OFFICERS.

The teachers without exception afford all help in their power and many of them are enthusiastic in the work. Teachers possess a mine of valuable information concerning the capabilities and environment of the children entrusted to their charge, and the School Medical Officer is glad to have this opportunity of expressing his appreciation of their ready assistance.

The School Attendance Officer does not take part in the actual inspection. He however renders material aid by making out a daily return of children who are absent from school on alleged medical grounds and who do not produce a satisfactory medical certificate and by tracing children who have moved to other districts in the borough.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE.

Bye-laws for regulating the employment of children of school age, are in operation in Yeovil.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.—The Education Committee does not employ an organiser for physical training.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT SCHEME.

Under an agreement between the Town Council and the County Council of Somerset, the Town Council exercises the County Council's powers under the Education (Choice of Employment) Act, 1910, in the Borough.

Under a scheme which has been approved by the Board of Education a Juvenile Employment Sub-Committee was formed comprising 16 representative members, for giving assistance to boys and girls under 18 with respect to choice of suitable employment.

The Committee have the assistance of a Juvenile Employment Officer (part time) and the scheme was brought into operation on 1st September, 1919. There is ample evidence that the scheme is

proving successful in the effort to select and procure occupation for the ex-scholars which are most fitted for their mental and physical capabilities.

The following table gives the statistical and other details to the end of 1921 of scholars for whom employment has been found.

	Boys.		Girls.
Aircraft Works	5	Aplin & Barrett's	2
Baking	4	Aircraft Works	1
Blacksmith, General	1	Box Factory	3
Boot Making	1	Clerical Work	9
Box Making Apprentice	3	Core Making	2
Building Works Apprentice	1	Domestic Service	37
Bus Conductors	2	Dressmaking	2
Butchering... ..	3	Glove Making	53
Cabinet Making	2	Lace Mending	3
Carpentering	2	Milk Girl	1
Clerical Work	19	Milliners' Apprentice	1
Coach Building Apprentice	1	Newspaper Girls	4
Dental Mechanic	1	Printing	1
Engineering	14	Shop Assistants	13
Errand Boys	28	Tailoress	2
Farming	1	"Western Gazette" as	
Fish Trade... ..	1	Readers	2
Flax Workers	13		
Footmen	2		
Foundry, Westlands	1		
Gardening	3		
Gloving	40		
Golf Links	1		
Light Errand Boys	18		
Messenger Boys	10		
Milk Boys	6		
Motor Engineers	6		
Newspaper Boys	11		
Organ Works Apprentice	1		
Painters	8		
Piano Tuner	1		
Porter "Light"	33		
Printers	9		
Reporters, Learners	2		
Shop Assistants	21		
Telegraph Messenger Boys	2		
Various	19		
Total	296		136

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED

1st January, 1921 to 31st December, 1921.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Age.	ENTRANTS.						Intermediate Group.	LEAVERS.					Grand Total.
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.		12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total.	
Boys	2	54	24	20	100	113	89	8	1	...	98	311
Girls	1	53	12	19	85	108	80	3	2	...	85	278
TOTALS	3	107	36	39	185	221	169	11	3	...	183	589

TABLE II.

Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection, 1921.

Defect or Disease.				Routine Inspections.		Specials.	
				Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Skin	Malnutrition	..	..	1	13	1	..
	Uncleanliness: Head	..	..	2	26	24	..
	Body	..	..	..	16	5	..
	Ringworm:						
	Head	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Body	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Scabies	..	..	2	..	3	..
	Impetigo	..	..	2	4	..	..
	Other Diseases (non-Tuberc'lr)	..	..	2	8	2	..
Eye	Blepharitis	..	..	4	..	2	..
	Conjunctivitis	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Keratitis	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Corneal Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Corneal Opacities	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Defective Vision	..	..	19	21	14	..
	Squint	..	..	..	2	..	..
	Other Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ear	Defective Hearing	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Otitis Media	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Ear Diseases	..	..	2	4	8	..
Nose & Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	..	..	28	22	3	3
	Adenoids	..	..	1	3	2	..
	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	..	..	4	..	..	..
	Other Conditions	..	..	..	..	35	66
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-Tubercular)				..	8	..	6
Defective Speech				..	3	..	..
Teeth—Dental Diseases				6	37	48	..
Heart and Circulation	Heart Disease:						
	Organic	..	..	2	..	7	3
	Functional	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lungs	Anæmia	..	..	..	1	..	3
	Bronchitis	..	..	..	11	8	10
Other non-Tubercular Diseases				..	..	5	..

TABLE II. (continued).

(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Tuber- culosis	Pulmonary :						
	Definite	..	..	4	..	14	..
	Suspected	..	..	6	..	2	..
	Non-Pulmonary :						
	Glands	.	..	..	1	..	..
	Spine	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Hip ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Other Bones & Joints	..	..	1	..	..	..
Nervous System	Skin ..	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Other Forms	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Epilepsy	..	..	1	1	1	..
	Chorea	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deform- ities	Other Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Rickets	..	..	..	3	..	..
	Spinal Curvature	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defects and Diseases				10	9	32	20

NUMBER OF *Individual Children* HAVING
DEFECTS WHICH REQUIRED TREATMENT
OR TO BE KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION.

380

TABLE III.

NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL
CHILDREN IN THE AREA 1921.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind, (including partially blind) within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	---	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind	—	—	—
		Not at School ..	—	—	—
Deaf and Dumb, (including partially deaf), within the meaning of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893.		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	1	1
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf	—	1	1
		Not at School ..	---	—	—
Mentally Deficient :	Feeble Minded ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools	6	3	9
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ..	—	2	2
		Notified to the Local Control Authority by Local Education Authority during year	—	—	—
		Not at School ..	—	—	—
	Imbeciles	At School	—	—	—
		Not at School ..	1	—	1
	Idiots	—	—	—	—
Epileptics		Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	2	3
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School ..	—	—	—
Physically Defective :	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools	8	6	14
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	1	2	3
		Not at School ..	4	4	8
	Crippling due to Tuberculosis ..	Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	—	2
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	2	—	2
		Not at School ..	—	—	—

TABLE III. (continued).

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Physically Defective : <i>Continued.</i>	Crippling due to causes other than Tuberculosis, <i>i.e.</i> , Paralysis, Rickets, Traumatism.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	5	6
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children ..	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Schools	1	—	1
		Not at School	—	—	—
	Other Physical Defectives, <i>e.g.</i> , delicate and other children suitable for admission to Open-Air Schools ; children suffering from severe heart disease.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	19	10	29
		Attending Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children, other than Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		Not at School	—	1	1
Dull or Backward*		Retarded 2 years ..	71	41	112
		Retarded 3 years ..	13	26	39

*Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1921.

A.—TREATMENT OF MINOR AILMENTS.

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under Local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm—Head ..	13	13	—	13
Ringworm—Body ..	4	4	—	4
Scabies ..	25	25	—	25
Impetigo ..	201	201	—	201
Minor Injuries ..	935	935	—	935
Other skin disease ..	22	22	—	22
<i>Ear Disease—</i> ..	67	67	—	67
<i>Eye Disease</i> (external and other) ..	68	68	—	68
<i>Miscellaneous</i> ..	126	38	88	126

B.—TREATMENT OF VISUAL DEFECT.

Number of Children.									
Referred for Refraction.	Submitted to Refraction.				For whom Glasses were Prescribed	For whom Glasses were Provided.	Recommended for Treatment other than by Glasses.	Receiv'd other Forms of Treatment.	For whom no Treatment was considered necessary.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme Clinic or Hospital	By Private Practitioner or Hospital	Other-wise.	Total					
33	24	6	—	30	30	30	1	—	4

C.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Referred for Treatment,	Number of Children.			
	Received Operative Treatment.			Received other Forms of Treatment.
	Under Local Education Authority's Scheme—Clinic or Hospital.	By Private Practitioner or Hospital.	Total.	
38	5	14	19	4

D.—TREATMENT OF DENTAL DEFECTS.

1.—Number of Children dealt with.

—	Age Groups.												'Specials.'	Total.
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
(a) Inspected by dentist ..	10	104	50	124	53	41	20	37	22	2			69	532
(b) Referred for treatment	294												69	363
(c) Actually treated ..	133												40	173
(d) Re-treated (result of periodical examin- ation)	73												—	73

2. Particulars of Times given and of Operations undertaken.

No. of Half Days devoted to Inspec- tion.	No. of Half Days devoted to Treat- ment.	Total No. of Attend- ances made by the Chil- dren at the Clinic.	No. of Permanent Teeth.		No. of Temporary Teeth.		Total No. of Fill- ings.	No. of Admini- strations of General Anæsthetics included in (4) and (6)	No. of other Operations.	
			Ex- tract- ed.	Filled.	Ex- tract- ed.	Filled			Per- ma- nent Teeth.	Tem- porary Teeth.
(1.)	(2.)	(3)	(4)	(5.)	(6)	(7.)	(8.)	(9.)	(10.)	(11.)
3	32	355	64	155	562	—	155	—	—	—

TABLE V.—Summary of Treatment of Defects as shown in Table IV. (A, B, C, D, and F, but excluding E).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Children.			
	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.		
		Under local Education Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Minor Ailments ..	1461	1373	88	1461
Visual Defects ..	33	24	7	31
Defects of nose and throat ..	38	5	14	19
Dental Defects..	363	246	—	246
Other Defects ..	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1895	1648	109	1757

TABLE VI.—Summary relating to Children medically inspected at the Routine Inspections during the year 1921.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected at the routine inspections.	589
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from	
Malnutrition	14
Skin Disease	18
Defective Vision (including Squint)	42
Eye Disease	6
Defective Hearing	—
Ear Disease	6
Nose and Throat Disease	58
Enlarged Cervical Glands (non-tubercular)	8
Defective Speech	3
Dental Disease	43
Heart Disease—	
Organic	2
Functional	—
Anæmia	1
Lung Disease (non-tubercular)	11
Tuberculosis—	
Pulmonary { definite	4
{ suspected	6
Non-pulmonary	5
Disease of the Nervous System	2
Deformities	10
Other defects and diseases	19
(3) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or foot-gear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment).	153
(4) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.)	99
(5) The number of children in (4) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.)	68

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